(d) whether the Union Government has made any survey to assess the number of labourers covered under the categorized rates of wages; and

(e) if so, the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The National Floor Level Minimum Wage, which is applicable to all scheduled employments including agricultural labourers, presently stands at Rs. 66/- per day. It is not prescribed category-wise. As it is a non-statutory measure, the State Governments are persuaded by writing letters and personal interaction to fix the minimum wages in all scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction to be at least at par with the National Floor Level Minimum Wage. The State Governments, by and large, follow the advice of the Central Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Investments by EPF Organisation

971. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the investments made by the EPF Organisation during the last one year and the returns earned therefrom;

(b) whether the EPF Organisation had appointed a consultant to suggest investment options to EPF;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendation given by the consultant;

(d) whether Government are considering the exposure of EPF funds in equities; and

(e) if so, by when, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The total amount of investment made by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation during the last financial year (*i.e.* FY-2005-06) in all the three schemes is Rs. 20,648.58 Crores. The details of the same are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

The total return earned for the financial year 2005-06 on the total corpus under the three schemes for the relevant year is as under:

(Rupees in crores)

Scheme	Total Corpus as on 31.03.06	Total return earned on total corpus (subject to adjustment for cost amortisation)
Employees' Provident Fund Scheme	90,438.36	6,745.50
Employees' Pension Scheme	70,749.13	5,800.31
Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme	4,918.99	390.35
TOTAL:	1,66,106.48	12,936.16

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The major recommendations made by the consultant namely, M/s. Mercer Human Resource Consulting are in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Finance *vide* its Notification dated 24.01.2005 has prescribed the Revised Pattern of Investment to be followed by the Non-Government Provident Funds. It contains the provision to allow investment upto 5% in equities. However, the same is not yet notified by the Ministry of Labour and Employment under Para 52 (1) of the EPF Scheme, 1952.

Statement-I

The details of the investments made by the EPFO during last one year (in all three schemes)

(Rupees in Crores)

Scheme	Invstment
Employees' Provident Fund Scheme	10,673.88
Employees' Pension Scheme	9,430.90
Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme	543.80
TOTAL:	20,648.58

Statement - II

Major recommendations of the Mercer are as follows:

1. Establishment of an Investment Department in Employees Provident Fund Organisation based at Mumbai.

2. Investment in Private Sector Debt instruments.

3. Removal of existing limits prescribed in case of Public Sector Undertaking/Public Sector Financial Institutions securities

4. Removal of mandatory requirement in State Government Securities, to increase the extent of flexibility.

5. The maximum maturity for deposits with public sector banks be increased from one year to three years.

6. Active management of portfolio through trading be permitted.

7. In the event of active management or portfolio, appointment of two or more external portfolio managers.

National Minimum Social Security Scheme

972. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for Enterprises in the unorganized sector submitted a proposal to Government to formulate a National Minimum Social Security Scheme for the 30 crore workers in the unorganized sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) to what extent the proposed scheme is likely to reduce the vulnerability of workers in the unorganized sector, especially during illness, old age, unemployment and at the time of death?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The National Commission for enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sengupta has submitted its report to the Government on the Social Security for